MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether any scheme is being worked out in the near future?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: As soon as boring apparatuses are available, we will start boring and see whether the shallow wells can be deepened and made usable.

Drinking water for coastal area.

335. *MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the fact that there is general acute scarcity of drinking water in the coastal areas of Kartikapalli and Karunagapalli taluks;

(*b*) whether they have any information regarding the hardships and miseries suffered by the people in the coastal areas referred to above during terrible drought of the months of Kumbham, Meenam, Medam and Edavam this year; and

(*c*) whether any scheme is under the consideration of the Government for the supply of drinking water to those areas.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the honourable member whether it is to redress the hardship and miseries of the people of the coastal areas that this scheme for water supply is under the consideration of Government?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir, we are proposing to sink a number of deep wells and find out whether we can get good water.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: The answer to part (b) of the question is No!. How is that?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is a general scheme that is under consideration. It was not based on any particular thing. We have a general scheme for improvement of water supply in the coastal areas; it was not because of any particular hardship.

Scarcity of drinking water in the Kottayam town.

336. *MR. K. VARGHESE ITHAC: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the population of the municipal town of Kottayam according to the latest census;

(*b*) whether they are aware of the serious situation created in the town of Kottayam due to water shortage during the period from Kumbham to the end of Edavam this year and during the summer every year; and

(*c*) what measures the Government have taken in view of the representations already made through this House regarding this matter?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) 33,367.

(*b*) Yes.

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